
RMS Refugee Resettlement News

Issue #31 - June - 2007

Akam Bul ta, Bite-Kinyarwanda, Gaw Ler a Gay, Hello, Kia ora, Nabad,
Nihau, Mhoroi, Min ga la ba, Salaam, Salibonani, Shalom, Talofa lava,
Vanakkam, Zdravo!

RMS News is a monthly electronic newsletter updating you about RMS
Refugee Resettlement activities and refugee issues in NZ and overseas.
If you've any comments about this newsletter, or suggestions about what
you'd like to see included, please email us. Feel free to forward this
email to anyone else who might be interested in the contents.

This issue is mainly devoted to WORLD REFUGEE DAY, June 20.

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- 1. World Refugee Day

Every year on June 20 the world honours the courage, resilience and
strength of refugees. On this sixth anniversary of the United Nations-
designated World Refugee Day, thousands of organisations in hundreds of
countries will come together to focus global attention not only on the
plight of refugees and the causes of their exile, but also on their
determination and will to survive and on the contributions they make to
their host communities.

This year, the theme of World Refugee Day in Australia and New Zealand
is the "Voices of Young Refugees". Below are some activities and events
happening throughout New Zealand. We hope you will participate where
you can.

Auckland

The Fledgling Trust Refugee Youth Arts Project MIXIT presents "Into The
Mix" Directed by Biruktayet Shiferaw, a 20 minute documentary of the
Mixit project in action following a group of young players as they come
together and take on creative challenges.

Wednesday 20 June - The Academy Cinema, Akl Public Library Building -
7.45pm-8.45pm

Auckland Museum - Auditorium

Lecture and Panel Discussion - free entry Key Note Speaker - Hon Chris
Carter This lecture will provide an insight into why New Zealand takes
the UNHCR quota refugees, how they add to the cultural vibrancy of
Auckland, the resettlement challenges and hearing the perspective of
refugees themselves. Other Speakers: Jenni Broom, National Manager,
Client Operations, RMS Refugee Resettlement; and a representative from
one of New Zealand's refugee communities.

AUT St Paul St. Gallery Foyer

Wednesday 20 June, evening opening - to Friday 22 June Visual exhibition from AUT graphic design students

Sounds of the World in Waitakere

Saturday 23 June from 7pm

Kelson Community Centre (Cnr Great North Road and Awaroa Road, Kelston)

A FREE concert which will feature award winning international musicians who will be supported by a selection of highly talented local performers.

Kings College as well as some other local schools are working on some World Refugee Day projects and an event is being planned at Wesley Community Centre.

For more information please call our Auckland office: 629-6421

Wellington

World Refugee All Stars XI versus a Wellington Invitation Side Soccer Game Wakefield Park, Adelaide Road, Island Bay, Sunday 17 June, 11am (postponement day Sunday 14 June)

Join us also for some refreshments and share some stories afterwards in the clubrooms (thanks to the Island Bay United FC) SPECIAL GUEST: Keith Quinn is our guest commentator!

Te Hikoi Rerenga - the voyagers walk

Wednesday June 20 - 12.30 - 1.30 from Civic Square As part of World Refugee Day/Week and Matariki, guide Holden Hohaia will take us on a walk around the waterfront focusing on places of significance to local hapu and iwi. The walk will finish at the Kupe Statue where the story of Kupe's voyage will be told. A chance for Maori and those from a refugee background to share common experiences.

Pipitea Marae - June 20 - 6pm to 8pm

The Minister of Immigration, Hon David Cunliffe, will join members of our refugee communities, staff and representatives from Government and Non Government Organisations as well as other service providers and local and national dignitaries to acknowledge World Refugee Day at Pipitea Marae. After the formal powhiri, the Minister will give a speech as well as members of our youth community. There will be performances from the Ngati Poneke Maori Club, as well as dance and music from some of our other communities.

Evolve Youth Service Centre

5 Eva St (off Dixon St)

Come and join our youth and help support and celebrate their performances of of dance and music.

Tuesday 19 June - Belly Dancing (for women only) Thursday 21 June - African Night Saturday June 23 - Youth Music Phone 801-9150 for more details or evolve@evolveyouth.org.nz

Other Contributors

Voices Arts Trust and Access Radio - A chance for youth to take their voice, ideas and stories to a wider community through radio, internet and pod-cast. Learning about what happens behind the scenes at a radio

station, having the opportunity to share your stories as well as learning about interviewing, announcing, editing and producing. Listen out on Access Radio from 8pm on June 20!

Centre for Applied Cross-Cultural Research - Victoria University - Understanding "Kiwi-style" communication Monday 18 June How to ask for help or information at school and university. Refugee background and kiwi born students are invited to share ideas about the ways of asking for help in different cultures so that we can promote inter-cultural understanding and learn skills for success in education. For more information contact cacr@vuw.ac.nz or txt 0275-444-222

Christchurch

Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology Saturday June 16 - 10.30am to 2pm Entertainment from Paul Ubana Jones, local singers, dancing and music from ethnic communities including a Korean Fan Dance, Nepalese dancers, Kiwi Iwi (Middle Eastern/Maori Mix) Afghan youth singers, Spanish Dancing and much more. Fantastic ethnic food will be available as well as some spot prizes. For further information please call our Christchurch office: (03) 366-0497

Palmerston North

With the support of Mayor Tanguay, there will be an event for invited guests at the Community Leisure Centre on the evening of June 20. On June 19 there will also be a significant event at the Central Baptist Church where our many volunteer support workers will be honoured for their commitment to our refugee communities.

Hamilton

A luncheon is being planned on June 20 for members of the refugee communities and other invited guests. There will also be a focus on the Voices of Young Refugees with speeches from youth as well as performances and refreshments.

2. Volunteer Awareness Week

World Refugee Day falls during Volunteer Awareness Week (June 17 - 23) and a number of our centres are planning events to acknowledge the tremendous commitment and purposefulness of the many hundreds of volunteer support workers who have become not only great friends to RMS Refugee Resettlement, but to the many, many refugee families they have assisted as they find their way in their new homeland. We would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge all volunteers in New Zealand and the time given to the many different organisations and agencies they support.

3. Vacancies - National Fundraising Coordinator - Wellington

We are looking for a passionate and experienced fundraiser to develop and implement our fundraising strategy. This is a new part time (20 hours) position with the lead NGO helping newly arrived refugees settle in New Zealand. You will be part of a dynamic multi ethnic organisation. To be successful in this role, ideally you will have:

- * An ability to relate to people from different cultures

- * A proven ability to manage an effective fundraising programme
 - * Strong people skills that foster relationships with all stakeholders
 - * Excellent oral and written communication skills
 - * Proficient computer and database skills
 - * Able to evaluate and report on financial outcomes
- Applications close 22 June 2007, for a position description and application form please email jude.walcott@rms.org.nz or phone (04) 471 1932

He aha te mea nui? He aha te mea nui o te ao?
Maku e ki atu. He tangata he tangata, he tangata.

What is the most important thing? What is the most important thing in the world?
I will say to you. It is people, it is people, it is people.

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